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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Status of Claims*

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed on December 9, 2009, where Applicant amended claims 1,8. Claims 1-14 remain pending.

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph P Mehrle (reg 45535) on 2/3/2010.

The CLAIMS have been amended as follows:

**CLAIM 1. (Examiner Amendment)** A method for managing a preference implemented in a computer-readable storage medium and to process on a computer, comprising:

receiving a preference over a network associated with an entity during a first transaction with a service, ~~wherein~~ the entity directly identifies the preference during that first transaction where the entity elects an option to save the preference and provides an identifier for the preference that is being saved;

storing the preference in a data store with the identifier and associating it with the entity and associating configurable policies with the preference and identifier;

identifying a second transaction made by the entity for the service during a new session and after the first session between the entity and the service has terminated normally, abnormally, or via defined events;

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installing the preference on a computing device of the entity and the configurable policies determine whether automatic or manual processing of the preference is to occur by the service; and

activating the service, the service automatically uses the preference from the computing device of the entity to place the computing device in a processing state driven by the preference or to present on the computing device a presentation interface the entity is expecting in response to the preference.

**CLAIM 8. (Examiner Amendment)** A preference managing system implemented in a computer-readable storage medium processed by ~~that processes on~~ a computer, comprising:

a data store for housing preferences from entities, where the preferences are accessed in a computer-readable medium by a preference manager;

a service that is accessed by the entities; and

the preference manager, implemented in a computer-readable medium as instructions that is executed by the process on a computer, the preference manager acquires the preferences from the data store, each preference previously identified by the entities via an interface where the entities elect options to have their preferences saved in the data store with identifiers during first sessions that subsequently terminates normally, abnormally, or via defined events, the first sessions also associating configurable policies with the preferences, and the preference manager associates the preferences with the entities using the identifiers, and the preference manager installs the preferences in locations that are local to the entities and expected by the service to be local to the entities prior to the service initializing itself with the preferences for access by the entities during subsequent new sessions and the configurable policies determine whether the preferences are automatically or manually processed by the service, and once the preferences are processed by the service the entities are placed in a processing state driven by the preferences or presented with a presentation interface that the entities are expecting in response to the preferences.

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*Allowable Subject Matter*

3. Claims 1-14 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants invention of managing preferences, is found to be patentable. Prior art references found to be pertinent to Applicants disclosure (see attached Form 892), either only teach minor aspects of the invention or only teach the general environment of the invention. The collective prior art, either singly or in combination, do not teach the claim limitations.

The primary reason for allowance is the novelty of a preference manager acquired preferences saved in a data store and installing the preferences in locations that are local to entities prior to the service initializing itself with the preferences for access by the entities during subsequent new sessions, and configurable policies which are associated with the preferences determine whether the preferences are automatically or manually processed by the service, and once the preferences are processed by the service the entities are placed in a processing state driven by the preferences or presented with a presentation interface that the entities are expecting in response to the preferences

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMY M. OSMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ramy M Osman/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2457

February 5, 2010